

## CIRCULATION OF READING MATTER AMONG THE BLIND.

FEBRUARY 24, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BEVERIDGE, from the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads,  
submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3129.]

The Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3129) to promote the circulation of reading matter among the blind, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it pass with the following amendment:

In line 7, after "exceeding," strike out "ten" and insert in lieu thereof "four."

The bill was submitted to the Post-Office Department for information, and the following communication was received in reply from the Postmaster-General:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
Washington, D. C., January 18, 1904.

HON. BOIES PENROSE,

*Chairman Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads, United States Senate.*

SIR: I return herewith copy of Senate bill 3129, entitled "To promote the circulation of reading matter among the blind," which was referred by you to this Department for a report as to the advisability of enacting the same into law.

The passage of this bill, in my judgment, would establish a doubtful precedent. Meritorious and deserving as the cause which it proposes to aid is, I do not think Congress should grant such a gratuity as that proposed in this bill, and, in the opinion of the Department, in no event should the limit of weight exceed four pounds.

There is no more worthy cause than that of educating the blind, and I regret that I do not see my way clear to recommend the passage of the bill in question.

Respectfully, yours,

H. C. PAYNE, *Postmaster-General.*

The committee, however, does not fully agree with the Department's letter, and is of the opinion that an exception should be made in behalf of the blind.

